

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with section 1321 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228), I transmit herewith a report prepared by my Administration on implementation of the debt reduction authority conferred by title XIII, subtitle B of Public Law 107-228.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 8, 2004.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 8, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 8, 2004 at 11:55 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress of his intention to enter into a free trade agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L,  
Clerk of the House.

#### INTENTION TO ENTER INTO FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO—MES- SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-172)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-210; the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intent to enter into a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Kingdom of Morocco.

This agreement will create new opportunities for America's workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers by eliminating barriers in trade with Morocco. Morocco is one of the United States strongest friends in the Middle East. Increased trade will benefit Americans and help strengthen a tolerant, open, and more prosperous Morocco. Entering into an FTA with Morocco will not only strengthen our bilateral ties with this important ally, it

will also advance my goal of a Middle East free trade area (MEFTA) within a decade.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the United States-Morocco FTA. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this free trade agreement.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 8, 2004.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken at 6:30 p.m. today.

#### SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH RE- SPECT TO SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, DECEM- BER 22, 2003 EARTHQUAKE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 519) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 519

Whereas at 11:15 A.M. on Monday, December 22, 2003, an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, with an epicenter approximately 6 miles northeast of the community of San Simeon and 24 miles northwest of the City of Paso Robles;

Whereas the magnitude of the earthquake was such that it was felt from the City of San Francisco to the Los Angeles Basin, and may have caused the Coastal Range to become up to a foot higher;

Whereas the earthquake caused damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure such as buildings, bridges, and roads, that will cost millions of dollars to repair;

Whereas tragically, 2 lives were lost and more than 40 persons sustained injuries;

Whereas local public safety and law enforcement personnel responded immediately, effectively, and courageously to assist victims of the earthquake and otherwise protect the public; and

Whereas a Federal disaster declaration was issued on January 13, 2004: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) is saddened by the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003, and sends its deepest condolences to the victims and their families; and

(2) recognizes and honors those local officials, public safety and law enforcement personnel, and individuals, who in private or public capacity provided assistance to the victims of the earthquake and their families,

and commends this dedicated service to the residents of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties and the State of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 519, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), honors the victims and affected residents of the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo, California, on December 22, 2003. The earthquake registered a 6.5 on the Richter scale, and it killed two people and injured 50 others. This was the largest quake to hit the counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara since 1994.

The historic town of Paso Robles was hit the hardest. Many of the buildings in that area were unreinforced masonry structures built over a century ago, and they were unfortunately no match for the earthquake's power. The two deaths occurred in Paso Robles. In addition, the earthquake's tremors were felt in San Francisco to Los Angeles, and more than 30 aftershocks were reported in the following hours. The quake knocked out power to approximately 75,000 residents, and many others were forced to evacuate. This resolution remembers the victims and those who were injured and underscores the heroic sacrifices made by countless disaster relief workers and emergency personnel after the earthquake.

Following the wildfires that scorched hundreds of thousands of acres in October, the December 22 earthquake concluded a difficult fall season for so many California residents. Therefore, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) for introducing this resolution. It helps us all remember the victims of this disaster.

The resolution also appropriately recognizes the public safety officials and emergency response personnel who helped limit the earthquake's effects on the region. Many individuals, businesses, and organizations in surrounding areas provided much-needed assistance to victims in the days and the weeks following the tragedy. I commend the gentleman from California for the resolution's important focus in